

## Message Text

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12  
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 CU-02

/059 W  
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R 210405Z AUG 76  
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2378  
INFO DIA WASHDC  
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
AMEMBASSY RANGOON  
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI  
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 23541

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLSAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PGOV, TH, PINT  
SUBJ: PRAPHAT CHARUSATHIAN AFFAIR STILL SIMMERS BUT SITUATION  
CALM

REF: BANGKOK 23484

CONTROVERSY STIRRED BY CLANDESTINE RETURN OF FIELD  
MARSHAL PRAPHAT CHARUSATHIAN TO BANGKOK (REFTEL) CONTINUES  
TO SIMMER, BUT SITUATION IN BANGKOK IS CALM.

2. BANGKOK PRESS AUG 21 REPORTS THAT PRIME MINISTER SENI  
HAD AUDIENCE WITH KING LATE AFTERNOON OF AUG 20 TO INFORM  
HIM OF DEVELOPMENTS. RECTOR OF THAMMASAT UNIVERSITY,  
DR. PUIAI UNGPHAKON, APPEARED ON TV EVENING OF AUG 20 AND  
APPEALED TO FIELD MARSHAL PRAPHAT, WHOM HE TERMED A FRIEND  
OF HIS, TO LEAVE THAILAND AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. MEANWHILE,  
PUIAI SAID HE WOULD TRY TO PERSUADE STUDENT LEADERS NOT  
TO "PUT TOO MUCH PRESSURE" ON THE RTG OVER THE PRAPHAT AFFAIR.  
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HE SAID, "THIS WAS NOT A CASE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ASKING

PRAPHAT TO COME HERE. WHY CAN'T WE DO SOMETHING TO HELP THE GOVERNMENT BY NOT PUTTING TOO MUCH PRESSURE ON THE ADMINISTRATION."

3. STUDENT UNIONS AT UNIVERSITIES OF MAHIDON, CHULALONGKON, AND THREE SMALLER UNIVERSITIES IN BANGKOK AREA ANNOUNCED CLOSURE OF THEIR UNIVERSITIES INDEFINITELY, AND NSCT SECRETARY GENERAL SUTHAM SAENGPRATHUM SAID HE HAD CABLED UNIVERSITIES IN CHIANG MAI, KHON KAEN, SONGKHLA, AND PATTANI TO LAUNCH NATION-WIDE PROTEST AGAINST RETURN OF PRAPHAT.

4. COMMENT: STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS OVER PRAPHAT AFFAIR HAVE FAILED TO ATTRACT LARGE-SCALE SUPPORT THUS FAR, BUT STUDENT LEADERS APPEAR IMPELLED TO CONTINUE WITH ACTION DESPITE PRAPHAT'S AGREEMENT TO LEAVE COUNTRY. IN TV APPEARANCE NOTED ABOVE, DR. PUIAI CONFIRMED THAT THAMMASAT POLICY AGAINST USE OF UNIVERSITY PROPERTY FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES WAS STILL IN EFFECT, THOUGH LECTURERS' COUNCIL AT THAMMASAT ISSUED STATEMENT AUG 20 ACKNOWLEDGING THAT EFFORTS OF UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION TO PREVENT MISUSE OF CAMPUS FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES HAD FAILED FOR REASONS BEYOND ITS CONTROL. CONTEXT WAS ONE OF DISAPPROVAL OF SUCH MISUSE OF CAMPUS. THAMMASAT ESTABLISHED OP-LEVEL COMMITTEE AUG 20 TO MONITOR STUDENT RALLIES IN PRESENT SITUATION AND REPORT TO GOVERNMENT. COMMITTEE IS HEADED BY DR. PRAKOB HUTASING, PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY ITUNCIL.

WHITEHOUSE

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## Message Attributes

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**To:** STATE  
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